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LETTER DATED 26 AUGUST 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward a letter from Zivadin Jovanovic, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, requesting an urgent meeting of the Security Council and adoption of appropriate measures following the discovery of the massacre of Serbian civilians in the village of Ugljare in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

99-24685 (E) 260899

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Annex

Letter dated 25 August 1999 from the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Yugoslav Government and public are deeply angered and shocked by the realization of the discovery of a new mass grave in which the human remains of 15 civilians of Serbian nationality have been found in the district of the village of Ugljare, near Gnjilane, including Dragan Tomic and two members of the Zdravkovic family who were abducted as early as 10 July 1999 by the terrorists from the ranks of the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). The fact that United States members of KFOR, in whose area of responsibility this monstrous crime had been committed, hid deliberately for more than a month the crime from the international public and from the Security Council itself constitutes a concealment of truth, aggravation of the investigation and the protection of those who had issued the orders and perpetrated the crime.

The leadership of KFOR confirmed the basic facts of this unheard-of massacre only today on 25 August and only following an official request by the Yugoslav authorities made on 24 August. It was done without a word of condemnation of the crime or of condolences to the families of the victims. The overall attitude of KFOR and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) reflects, no doubt, the tendency to manipulate the international public and the Security Council itself, even in cases of massive bestial terrorist massacres. The aim was to hinder information and, by the same token, reactions by the international public and the Security Council itself over the crime discovered only one day after the massacre of 14 Serbian civilians in the village of Staro Gracko. This does not speak only of a tolerant attitude, but also about a deliberate protection of the separatist-terrorist so-called KLA in order to shun possible responsibility for daily killings, abductions, the destruction and burning of Serbian medieval monasteries and cultural monuments - in which way KFOR becomes practically an accomplice in the great evil against the Serbian people in a flagrant massive violation of human rights and the campaign of ethnic cleansing.

The Yugoslav Government and public is concerned, in particular, over the slow and altogether inefficient investigation of daily crimes committed throughout the Province, the tolerant and protective attitude towards Albanian terrorists and criminal gangs, whereby they are encouraged to realize their plan of ethnic cleansing of all of the non-Albanian population. UNMIK and KFOR countenance massive daily violations of the basic human rights of the Serbs and non-Albanians by the terrorists of the so-called KLA, roaming masses of Albanians from Albania and Macedonia who commit the most heinous crimes in the Yugoslav territory, such as illegal traffic in drugs, weapons and white slavery. By taking such a position, KFOR and UNMIK violate flagrantly Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and the military-technical agreement, which calls for adequate reaction and appropriate measures of the Security Council.

Considering the gravity of the situation in Kosovo and Metohija, illustrated in a tragic way by the coordinated and massive massacres of Serbs at

Staro Gracko and Ugljare, the Yugoslav Government calls for an urgent meeting of the Security Council and expects the Security Council to condemn categorically and in the strongest terms the most recent massive crime, to order an efficient and thorough investigation with the participation of Yugoslav forensic experts in order to find, arrest and punish the perpetrators of these crimes and those who issued them the orders.

At the same time, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia recalls its past communications to the Security Council and the Secretary-General and demands that:

- The Security Council take energetic measures and steps to have KFOR and UNMIK effectively guarantee in practice full personal and property security to Serbian, Montenegrin and other non-Albanian populations in the Province, respect for Yugoslav laws and for public peace and order;

- It put a resolute end to the vandalism and terror of Albanian separatist-terrorist and other criminal gangs;

- It ensure the release of about 300 persons of Serbian nationality abducted by Albanian terrorists since the deployment of KFOR in the Province;

- The terrorist so-called KLA disarm itself without delay and fully and that further illicit trade in weapons from and via neighbouring countries be stopped;

- Conditions be ensured for a free, dignified and secure return of about 200,000 Serbs and non-Albanians driven out from the Province in the campaign of ethnic cleansing in the period since the taking over of the responsibility for the security of the population by KFOR and UNMIK;

- All foreign citizens who have entered the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia illegally be deported;

- A contingent of the Yugoslav Army and police return to the Province in accordance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and the military-technical agreement.

Taking energetic measures and steps by the Security Council and KFOR and UNMIK along the said lines is the only way to ensure the cessation of the daily terror, murders, abductions and ethnic cleansing, to protect the threatened reputation and credibility of the world Organization and to ensure the necessary conditions for a political solution in the Province on the basis of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and with respect for the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

(Signed) Zivadin JOVANOVIC